

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 4-8, 11-22, 26-30 and 33 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-3, 9-10, 23-25 and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Toyoda (U.S. Patent No. 6,582,095) (hereinafter “Toyoda”).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended independent claim 1, canceled claims 4-8, 11-33 without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new claims 34-35. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 9-10 and 34-35 are pending in this application for further consideration.

Objection to Claims 4-8, 11-22, 26-30 and 33

The Office Action objects to claims 4-8, 11-22, 26-30 and 33 because of informalities. Applicants have canceled these claims as indicated in the Continuation Application of Prior Application No. 10/013,671 on July 14, 2003. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 4-8, 11-22, 26-30 and 33 be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 9-10, 23-25 and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Toyoda. To the extent that the Examiner may consider the rejection to apply to the newly amended claims, the rejection is traversed as being based upon a reference or any

combination of references that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features now clearly recited in claims.

With respect to independent claim 1, as newly amended, Applicants respectfully submit that Toyoda does not teach or suggest a claimed combination including at least a feature of “light deflecting device arranged above said light guide for controlling a direction of light emission from said light guide.”

The Office Action appears to allege that a transparent substrate 2 of Toyoda reads on both of the claimed “light guide” and the claimed “light deflecting device.” In contrast to the present invention of newly-amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Toyoda merely discloses the single transparent substrate 2 with a plurality of grooves 2a. Toyoda is completely silent about a combination of a light guide and a light deflecting device that is arranged above the light guide and includes a plurality of elongated lenses. In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that Toyoda does not teach or suggest the feature of “light deflecting device arranged above said light guide for controlling a direction of light emission from said light guide,” as recited by newly-amended independent claim 1.

With respect to independent claim 23, since Applicants have canceled claims 23-33 without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of claims 23-25 and 31-32 has been rendered moot.

MPEP § 2131 instructs that “[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” Thus, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).”

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn because the applied reference does not teach or suggest each and every feature of amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections of dependent claims 2-3, 9-10 should also be withdrawn at least because of their dependencies upon the respective independent claim 1, and for the reasons as those set forth above.

New Claims 34-35

Applicants have added new claims 34 and 35 to further define the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 34 and 35 are allowable over the prior art of record based on the reasons set forth above and the features recited therein.

With no other rejections pending, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-3, 9-10 and 34-35 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

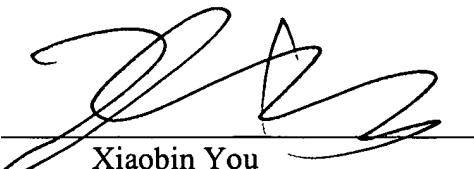
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

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37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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